

Web-Chat Date: December 14, 2010

Topic: The Effective Use of Social Media in the English Classrooms

Abstract:

The role of the social media is becoming more and more inviting and lucrative in the English as an international language teaching arena. Even the acclaimed U.S. TESOL International Convention taking place in the upcoming March New Orleans's focus topic will be about the use of technology in ELT situation; entitled "Examining the 'E' in TESOL." In our next web-chat, we would like to survey the extent teachers can integrate the use of technology and social media in particular to effectively use available social media tools to minimize teachers' and, in turn, maximize students' production in the English language classrooms.

Transcript:

Damon Anderson: Welcome everyone. We will begin our chat on the hour. Please feel free to submit any pre-chat comments or questions.

pham viet ha: Hi Damon,

Damon Anderson: Hi Pham Viet Ha!!

Damon Anderson: Everyone, welcome to our December English Roundtable Chat. We will begin in about 10 minutes. Thank you for joining us.

Mr.Somporn (Jude): Greetings from Mr.Somporn(Jude)

Damon Anderson: Greetings, Mr. Somporn (Jude).

kwan: hello everybody

Damon Anderson: Hello Kwan. Where are you from?

kwan: My name is Kwan from KMUTT, Thailand

tarn: Hello everyone!

Damon Anderson: Hello Sweetards, Tam, and Odonchimeg.

Rawikan: Good afternoon

Damon Anderson: Hello Rawikan.

sweetarda: I'm from KMUTT, Bangkok, Thailand

Odonchimeg Tserentsogzol: Hello everyone!

sweetarda: Hello everyone!

tarn: hello Damon

Mr.Somporn (Jude): Nice meeting you again Mr.Anderson;I'm Jude from Pattani.

Damon Anderson: Jude, it is good to see you again.

Odonchimeg Tserentsogzol: Hello Damon

phuong: hello evryone

Damon Anderson: Hello Phuong.

Mr.Somporn (Jude): Nice meeting you too,Mr.Anderson

Damon Anderson: For the sake of brevity in writing, everyone please just address me as Damon.

phuong: Hello Damon

Rawikan: Hi Damon and all. Nice to meet you all. I'm from KMUTT, Bangkok (^_^)

kwan: sure will Damon

Colin: Hello from Ulaanbaatar.

Damon Anderson: Colin, you are far away in a very very very cold place. Hope your fingers stay warm enough to type. Welcome!

Bill Templer: good morning from snowy Bulgaria

Damon Anderson: Bill, it is always good to see you. Welcome.

pham thuy: Good afternoon everybody

pham thuy: Hello Damon, I'm from Hanoi, Vietnam

phuong: HI thuy

kwan: hello Bill

phuong: I am from HCM

phuong: I am KMUTT, but I dont know you, na

pham thuy: Hi Phuong

Mr.Somporn (Jude): Are you alright Mr.Kratuk,from Pattani,are you connected so far ??From Jude,Pattani

Damon Anderson: OK Everyone, we will begin our chat now. It is good to see so many people from so many countries: Thailand, Viet Nam, Mongolia, Bulgaria.... Let's begin our chat.

pham thuy: What is KMUTT, phuong?

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: Hello everyone (greetings from the Mekong Delta)

Lê Trần Loan Phương: Hello, i'm loanphuong, from HCMC.

Odonchimeg Tserentsogzol: I am from School of Language Education, Mongolian University of Science and Technology

Lê Trần Loan Phương: very nice to see all of you.

phuong: a famous university in BKK

Bill Templer: Teachers need to survey students on their use of facebook and other 'social media' Also on their use of phones for texting, etc. and in what language. There is a whole 'political economy' of access to social media, and many learners in rural, low-income and poverty situations have little or no access. The profession has to remember and examine this. Here a good general article on teaching and learning through social networks: <http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/think/articles/teaching-learning-through-social-networks>

Phanisara: Hello Everyone. Really nice seeing you all. Do anyone of you actively use internet in their English classes?

saksuda: Hello everyone.

Lê Trần Loan Phương: i'm from Seameo.

trinhminhhang: If teachers take the news from any web sites and let students debate on that topic so this way is the use of social media in the english classrooms or let students do research in groups and they must search the knowledge from the web and then reorganize it and present it in class so it is also the use of media in the E classrooms?

Damon Anderson: The answer to your question is, yes.

Lê Trần Loan Phương: yes, i'm using Internet at my ELT rooms.

Hong Dao: Please determine certain scope of social media to be discussed. Thanks.

Khin Maung Zaw: What can we make most of TV in teaching English to speakers of other languages?

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: Good points, Bill. Here in the university where I'm an ELF (agriculture and fisheries are the main majors), almost all students have access to cell phones but not nearly as many use email. Very few students ever use the Internet to get information. This limits www-

based social media (the pattern in wealthier countries) but USB-based sharing and collaborating is possible.

Phanisara: That's a very good project for students to do trinhminhhang. Great sample.

Damon Anderson: Everyone, when you address someone's comment, please put their name in front of your response so we know what you are referring to. Thank you.

Colin: I have found some of the very same problems as William in Mongolia.

saksuda: I start to use facebook in my English class.

Phanisara: TV can be a great source also. I believe, especially the one with closed captioning. Sometime you can even find samples from you tube.

Bill Templer: My experience in Malaysia is massive use of Facebook among students organized by themselves OUTSIDE OF CLASS. That is a reality in many places where access to Internet off campus or even in Thai villages is common..

Colin: The major issue with USB-based sharing for us here in Mongolia is the issue of virus sharing.

sonthida: Youtube is a very great resources for learning and teaching English.

Phanisara: Ajarn Saksuda---I love the idea of using Facebook in classes. I believe it has so much potential.

pham thuy: I teach in a famous university in Hanoi, but I don't have access to internet very often. We often use projectors in class and emails to submit homework

Damon Anderson: I have found that if you don't have Internet connection, you can web capture some web pages before hand, put them on CD ROM or DVDs and then use them as if you are connected to the web.

saksuda: Yes, I got great feedback from my students.

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: We can use the Internet in several ways. One is to have students consume materials available on the Internet, but we can also use it to encourage them to produce materials. These might be short videos or audios. These might be texts that they write or that we teachers write. If you have a "smart classroom", instead of writing notes on a blackboard, we can write and project them on a screen and then email them to all the students afterwards.

saksuda: everyone loves Facebook including me.

Phanisara: Facebook can be created using "classroom account." So we can limit our audience.

saksuda: Youtube is great Ajarn Sonthida.

Lê Trần Loan Phượng: i love the idea of using Facebook for ELT too.

sonthida: pham, e-mail has a lot of potential for classroom use.

phuong: anyone learns to use Yugma for communicating

Phanisara: Pham Thuy--I believe that's a great start. Any electronic devices and "e" sources are meant to be a tool for teachers. Teachers need to maximize their uses.

Odonchimeg Tserentsogzol: I don't often use the internet at English classroom, but I started using the yahoo web page to students thanks to Colin, fellow teacher, from USA.

saksuda: Yes, Khun Nina. but I don't know much about facebook ...just basic only.

Bill Templer: I think social networking is something mainly outside of the classroom. Facebook taking up class time seems to me impossible. Every student would need separate connection. So out-of-class autonomous work is the natural avenue.

Phanisara: Aj. Saksuda, how many students have you have "enrolling" in your classroom facebook page. Do you allow any other "guest" speakers to come in and share?

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: Saksuda and Le Tran Loan Phuong, what are some ways you've used Facebook in your classes? I've used email, youtube, pbworks (a wiki-based site) but haven't used Facebook.

patcharee sridakum: I'll think about using facebook in teaching English since teenagers' interest to chat with friends by facebook. In addition, if we let them learn by accessing via facebook, it will be convenient to do that.

sonthida: Yes, Bill and it's more natural to do it outside class.

tarn: how do we use facebook in classroom ka

saksuda: There are 26 students on my facebook.

Phanisara: Odonchimeg, American Fellow can really be a great help in introducing different electronic media in classrooms. We do have to be open to ideas.

Damon Anderson: I like Tarn's question. Can anyone give some examples?

phuong: my students use facebook but not for learning, just playing games

Bill Templer: You need to survey your students to find out how they use such social network sites (Facebook just one) on their own. Our students in Kuala Lumpur were very inventive in doing this for idea sharing, writing of their BEd thesis, and much more.

saksuda: Yes, guest speakers are welcome Khun Nina.

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: For me a big concern is how to make sure the technology (whether pen/paper or the Internet) helps students *produce* language. The Internet and social media

can help here, but by themselves they won't encourage production. The key, I think, is how the teacher teaches: how to get students (in class and out) to produce a lot of meaningful language.

Lê Trần Loan Phương: i haven't used it yet, but from now on i'm starting to think about this idea and put it into use.

Phanisara: Contrary to many people belief, Facebook can be very academic. There are so much links we can post in the class FB.

Bill Templer: As I see it, social networking via Internet is good to encouraging autonomous learning.

Damon Anderson: One reason to use social media in our language classes is because it is now a way that our young folks (you all included) are engaging with each other naturally outside class.

sweetarda: @Aj Saksuda Do you have example of using facebook in classrooom?

Vicky: it's great to use internet in class

saksuda: We can use facebook and other social networks for education.

Rawikan: I think facebook can be used for sharing ideas towards the assigned topic outside the classroom

phuong: good question for Bill

Vicky: we can update the information for all sts

sonthida: Bill, maybe fluency from exposure.

saksuda: Students feel free to chat and give opinions on FB.

Lê Trần Loan Phương: i agree with Phanisara.

Phanisara: William, I totally agree with you. Teachers needs to model the activities. Students can also work in group. They can be less intimidating to "produce" language.

Bill Templer: William Wolf is right, and production is indeed what writing on a social network encourages. It is conversation just like we are doing at the moment.

Phanisara: Students with less technological savvy can help other learners in the classroom to "produce" language also.

pham thuy: my friend open some online classes, using the free web like View, but sometimes I ask my students to chat with me via yahoo messenger. It's useful

Damon Anderson: There are many chat tools out there that people can use. Most are free.

Vicky: sometimes i can post a link onfacebook and ask sts join it and do some exercises on it and then discuss in class the next day

Dzung: it is too small, impossible to read.

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: Facebook is very strong for 1) chatting, 2) sharing links 3) helping students form "communities of learning". But another good kind of site is the wiki-based ones. I use pbworks. These sites allow students to both use and create content and pbworks provides templates (syllabus, class plan, rubrics) for teachers so we don't have to try to re-invent the wheel. Of course, we can use both Facebook and a wiki-based site together.

pham thuy: We can share/ upload documents using mediafire...

Phanisara: I agree with Rawikan. Facebook can introduce a different topic. OR it can introduce the topic RELATED to the class material topic---that students can DEBATE or vote on.

saksuda: Yes, to visit my page...follow this link.

saksuda: http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/NTS-M6-English-Community-Centre/165021863518072?v=app_2373072738

Bill Templer: A number of my students also have experimented with blogging This is not a social network but is quite extraordinaryas a kind of open diary.

tarn: can we post some video on facebook and then let students give a comment later on in order to improve their listening and writing skill?

saksuda: It's not perfect but it's good to motivate our students to use English.

Colin: Tarn, that would be a good use of Facebook

Vicky: anything

Phanisara: All these social media allows students to share their own PERSONAL opinions about the topic discussed IN ENGLISH IN CLASS ELECTRONICALLY. So students can think on their own, outside the box. There won't always be RIGHT OR WRONG answers. Students are encouraged to be reflective thinkers.

phuong: good idea, tarn. but what is the outcome you get from that

patcharee sridakum: I agree with Rawikan and Panisara that we can set the topic and let the students work in groups.

Bill Templer: The question in Thailand is how to get ordinary students in non-elite schools and universities into using social networking specifically for English language practice.

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: In Chicago, when I've had students blog, I broke up the blogging into parts. First week, get a blog address and write "hello". Second week, make a link to Wikipedia and

Youtube. Third week, post a question on another student's blog and answer a question posted on your blog. And for each of these I put students in small mixed-language groups (3-5 students) with each group having one (more or less) expert. I then had them arrange a time to meet outside of class for the more experienced students to help the less experienced ones.

Phanisara: I love Vicky's idea. That's very creative in lesson planning using FB.

Vicky: sometimes we use youtube for songs or cartoon... but we have to see in advance.

kwan: Phanisara- I can't agree more on the use of facebook.

Colin: William, that's an excellent way to get the students started.

Phanisara: William: Wow, that's great suggestion and sample of mix ability grouping.

Vicky: be the teacher be the guide for the sts, and then let them work to discover the knowledge

sonthida: Good method, Will. What is the level of the students?

saksuda: Yes, Vicky I agree.

pham thuy: Yes, Vicky's idea and William's are great

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: Phanisara, I like the idea of using FB both as a followup to class discussions and also as a preview to class discussions.

Vicky: my sts are about 8,9 10

Odonchimeg Tserentsogzol: Both Vicky's and William's idea great!

saksuda: yes, on FB you can create a discussion board.

Vicky: just primary kids but they love technology and it's kind of entertainment as well.

tarn: I think, teachers can see how well the students learn from the video by looking at their comments #phuong

Bill Templer: Many kids in villages across Thailand have good access to Internet and are pretty savvy about this. Jonathan Leather at Payap U has been researching this out of Chiang Mai. The trick is to get ordinary Thai kids to use networking for English production and exposure.

Phanisara: I agree with Vicky. When students discover their own learning, they will remember more--- and most significantly they will become life-long learners. They will know how to build upon their own learning skills---long after they finish our classes.

saksuda: Please share your facebook page link if you use it for ELT.

pham thuy: It's more difficult for me to teach students from minority groups

phuong: and then what do they learn? tarn

saksuda: Khun Nina, you are invited to be my honor guest on my board.

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: In Chicago I also had students make short (1-2 minute) videos explaining some aspect of the city or the university to students who would arrive in future terms. There were hesitant at first, but then really took to it. We used the Flip Video camera and software (and also USB-sharing) to get the rough drafts of the videos shared. Students did very good jobs on quite realistic topics: how to use the cafeteria, how to get a subway card, the ritual of ordering coffee at Starbucks. The Internet (and old fashioned computers) helped them move from consumers to producers. And seeing their own videos helped them with organization and pronunciation.

kwan: they learn to use english - phoung

pham thuy: I mean they are from remote, mountainous areas in North VN

Colin: William, I did the same thing in Fayetteville, Arkansas

Colin: We didn't use cameras. Most of the students used their cell phones or digital cameras to create them.

Phanisara: William Wolf---That's really authentic learning. They can discuss their daily needs and share information.

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: Pham Thuy, is the problem with the minority students the language or the remoteness and lack of access to the Internet?

Vicky: if you give them chance to access technology Thuy, it can be great

Phanisara: Ajarn Saksuda, sounds interesting. I will join your Facebook class.

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: And Pham Thuy, if they don't have reliable access to the Internet, do they have access to computers? Damon's idea of web-capture and then using projectors or USB drives is one way to share things from the Internet, even if student's don't have regular access to it.

Vicky: if there's no internet there we can use vcd, i reckon.

Bill Templer: What's possible using technology in the U.S. is just utopia in low-resourced places, like much of Eastern Europe, for example. What is needed are ideas that work in low-income places, like most of Cambodia.

saksuda: I'll let you know when my students post their questions.

Odonchimeg Tserentsogzol: I teach English to students who are majoring in engineering professions such as mining, geological etc., And I have a question. How should I connect them to the contemporary news related to their each profession on the internet, from what sources and? Any suggestions?

Lê Trần Loan Phương: <http://www.facebook.com/letranloanphuong>

pham thuy: William, they have both problems

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: And Pham Thuy, maybe even if they don't have Internet access but have cell phones with video cameras and some USB access you can do good things on getting them to *produce* and *share* their own materials even if they don't have access to Youtube, etc

sonthida: We have to leave now since the next group of students are coming to use the computer room. Thank you everybody for sharing the ideas.

pham thuy: William, they have access to computers. They can use them in the library

patcharee sridakum: Exactly Bill, Thai kids are good at accessing internet. From my experience, I see them comment the photos which their friends posted in English. It's feel good when the students comment the photos in English. It's authentic learning. I got the ideas if we set the topics together with post the pictures and describe in English. It will be great!

saksuda: Thanks for sharing your FB page. Le Tran Loan Phuong.

pham thuy: Yes, thanks for your ideas, William and others

Phanisara: I agree with Bill. The social media that works in most of our Asian countries HAS TO BE FREE. That's why something like FB is great. The application is truly user-friendly; and can really engage the students in using and practicing their English skills.

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: Bill, I totally agree. I've been working on several projects creating teaching materials here in rural Vietnam and my focus has shifted from making and posting videos online to 1) making audio files and sharing them via USB 2) making short videos and sharing those by USB. This has worked pretty well.

Lê Trần Loan Phương: it's my pleasure.

Bill Templer: Odonchimeg, I suggest you get students to use VOA Special English for articles on science and engineering in easier English.

Lê Trần Loan Phương: tonight, i'm going to use Christmas carols collected on my facebook page to teach my students.

saksuda: Bill, VOA is an excellent source for learning English.

Phanisara: I agree with Vicky. Start using what's available; and make the most of it.

pham thuy: Anybody has any great ideas for minimizing the virus spreading when using USB?

Damon Anderson: There are USB drives that have read only on them, so the virus is not passed on. Try finding one of those.

Bill Templer: I think Thai students (and in fact all students) need Extensive Reading and Extensive Listening. Internet sites good for that. FB in a way can be extensive reading 10,000 words a week is a good diet [half a million a year].

Phanisara: Hate to see you leave, Aj. Sonthida. But we understand. Come back next time.

Bill Templer: What is needed is a powerful anti-virus program that is cost-free.

Colin: Pham, I use a program from PortableApps.com called ClamAV. It's a convenient way to keep a virus scanner with you constantly.

pham thuy: Thanks Damon, sometimes I must ask Sts to use CDs instead

Phanisara: Like Colin stated the use of cellphones for ELT is also interesting. Anyone, do you believe in the use of cellphones for English learning activities?

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: One idea to slowly introduce students to social media and to do so in a way that isn't threatening is to get them to email the teacher. I've learned that simply asking doesn't work. Instead, the first I give each student a small piece of paper with my email address on it. and the 2nd week I tell them there will be a quiz in the 3rd week but that I will only send out information by email. This gets almost all the students to get in touch with me. I then use the blogging exercises to get them used to the idea that they can make content, not just consume other's content. And sometimes I'll send links to YouTube videos and ask them to watch and prepare a short set of questions for discussion in class. All these steps help students start using the Internet as a way to combine learning and fun.

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: Bill Templer and Odonchimeg, VOA's Special English is an amazing resource! Current events, all kinds of topics, and just a little bit slower than ordinary speech but that helps so much.

pham thuy: Bill, there are free English lessons, IELTS, ToEFL, etc. exam preparations on the internet

Odonchimeg Tserentsogzol: Bill, well VOA is a good source, of course. but reading and listening especially without understanding might be weird to students. Do u know some sources that we can access interesting videos? Any ideas?

paul: sorry i am late

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: And Bill, some Wiki articles also exist in Simple English versions.

paul: 1, We need to make sure what material we can offer to our students. because in our township , it is very hard to find suitable reading and listening materials.2, make sure what is suitable for the students, some materials is good for college students ,but not suitable for the high school kids.like reading material.3,the teacher should know how to use the social media and stuednts also know how to use. and the media is easy to find .like the cell phone. we use it to look up the vocabulary.4,Teachers should control the time for the use of the social media.,if you use the tool long too often, the students

may lose interests.5,the media's content should not be too easy or too difficult . it depends on how deep the teacher know his students.6, the teaching process should go from easy level to difficult level. one after another. like reading the newspaper ,maybe we can teach them use of the pictures .7. the most important thing is our students should learning the way of the critical thinking.

saksuda: Khun Nina, tonight I'm going to use Skype to interview my students. I'll let you know the feedback,Ok?

Phanisara: William Wolf, that's very effective. Small steps so the students can be at ease on using more and more technology in their studies. Good idea.

paul: it is my view

pham thuy: VOA special English is also good for beginners

Bill Templer: William's idea good. I have set up Yahoo groups for all my classes and send them messages this way. I find that has been very effective, and I'm still in touch with students from three years ago. Paul has good comments. Critical thinking is always a goal, however defined.

paul: and i am late, so i need to chath up with yours

paul: Voa is good ,but it is too long to renew

Phanisara: I agree Paul. Varieties of activities and options will satisfy most--if not all--students learning styles.

Bill Templer: I'd like to see a VOA Special English type of site with more criticalm material, say run by Michael Moore. But that is not likely for now.

Bill Templer: Are any of you using moodle?

paul: and we talk about the social media, so we need to create an atomosphere in our class .like the reality

Phanisara: Aj. Saksuda, super using skype appropriately in classrooms also great implementation of authentic learning of English.

pham thuy: yes, I only ask students to look through some reports they like, then they share in class, so they can read less but know more

paul: we cannot use VOA website

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: Phanisara, one idea I like is to use cell phones and put students in groups. In Chicago, we've had "scavenger hunts" (games where students go outside the classroom to look for information or objects) and they use cell phones to prove that they did what was required on the hunt. Better than just having individual students using their phones are projects that are 1) multi-class and 2) multi-person. Small groups, for example, can go around the area and do a TV news kind of

story (on a new restaurant, on a traffic cop, on children going to school, etc). In translation and interpretation classes, students in groups can go around with cellphones and interview people in their area who don't know English. I've done a little bit of this with the gardeners, motorbike repairment, and cooks near my university. My students translate back and forth English-Vietnamese. I also make sure that I am NOT the only one asking questions The gardeners also get to interview me.

pham thuy: I mean I ask them to read then summarize the reports/ articles

saksuda: I couldn't agree more, Khun Nina.

paul: now we use some simple newspaper in english

Phanisara: I agree. Paul. Do you think we should schedule "regular" English classes in the computer lab-like three times a week for five day English classes.

Tresha: We have been encouraged to use moodle the past a few years. But it's still not very popular in Taiwan.

paul: my students like to use their phone, so i encourage them to use it to look up words

pham thuy: Bill, I heard about the Ning team (in China?), but I haven't had time to try.

paul: and watch some movies

Bill Templer: One kind of action research is to do empirical survey of your students as to their e-life (online), their g-life (games), their m-life (music listening online and off). And their c-life (comics, manga). It can be quite enlightening. We need such kinds of empirical input. Questionnaire can be combined with interview in depth and focus group. Just an idea

Damon Anderson: Has anyone tried using a commercial program called Articulate to creat e-learning lessons?

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: Bill, what'd moodle?

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: Paul, why is it impossible to use the VOA site?

paul: yes , i tried , if you use more muiltmedia in a short time, students will tired ,or they will just wacth the subtitle

Phanisara: William--That's great sample and explanation on the kind of English learning activities through the use of cellphones. Thank you!!

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: Bill, I really like this e-life, g-life, c-life, and m-life.

pham thuy: William, Many of us in VN have set up group emails, yahogroups or google groups. I found it a good way of sharing ideas

Bill Templer: William, just google it. An extraordinary tool my colleagues in Kuala Lumpur have been using extensively.

patcharee sridakum: In my school, some teachers use moodle such as maths, PE.

Bill Templer: Moodle is a bit complicated but powerful

Colin: William, Moodle is classroom management software similar to Blackboard or WebCt. The major difference is that it is open source and free.

saksuda: Unfortunately our students are not allowed to use cell phones in school.

Phanisara: Only personally---I don't think moodle is very user-friendly. And it has limited use on mostly, I believe, classroom management.

pham thuy: and maintaining social relationship as we send to all group members

paul: e-learning, what I did, it is teaching students to use the search engine

paul: and find the right answers

paul: for the related topic for the lesson

Bill Templer: Saksuda says something important. Schools often ban the presence of cellphones, which sends a very clear message to students about how hostile schools are to their own t-life (telephone life).

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: And Pham Thuy, what kinds of things have you had students use yahoo groups and googlegroups for? Do you use it to give them homework and materials? Or is it more of a "free zone" where students can use the groups however they want as long as it's in English?

Phanisara: Aj. Saksuda, wow, I did not realize that cellphones are not allowed in your school. Is that because of Southern insurgencies issues?

paul: yes I hope they can ban it in some ways

saksuda: No, because they always play with their cell phones.

Phanisara: Aj. Patcharee, did you use moodle for English classes as well?

paul: I use yahoo group

pham thuy: They can share material, discuss issues, exchange ideas

Bill Templer: This ban on phones is common in many corners. I know of colleges where student phones are actually confiscated if they are 'caught' with them in class. Not too far from Bangkok, I won't say where.

pham thuy: Just like written chats, William

paul: but i found mostly i think yahoo messenger send some unhealthy messages

Phanisara: William---I really have to google all that up. Real LIFE stuff out there.

Bill Templer: Cellphones should be utilized in inventive ways. For many ordinary kids, it is their only personal 'tool'

patcharee sridakum: I am persuated to use moodle. I gonna start to use it since it's complecated. I need more time to study.

Odonchimeg Tserentsogzol: I always thought that the using cellphones are restricted in class, but sometimes i let them use to look up words. because most srudents use their phones to message each other or play.

paul: i may encourage the students to create their blogs

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: And Bill and Paul, you've made me think that maybe we need to ask NOT "How can I fit my students into social media" but "How can I fit social media into the already existing lives of my students?" To that end, survey them to find out what issues are important to them (these could be Grand Issues like global warming or poverty or Small Issues like make up or the college sports team) and then use a range of social media (Wikipedia for information, Google images for images, e-groups like Yahoo or Facebook to organize learning communities, blogs to share rough-draft ideas) and then to produce something multimedia (text, audio, video, photo) about this issue.

paul: to share their feeling and journey and dairy

Phanisara: Aj. Saksuda, lol. OK. But maybe the teachers can assign specific classroom/academic activities that students will use cellphones not to play; but to learn. We can do that though, right?

Bill Templer: Patcharee, my colleagues in Malaysia very enthusiastic about Moddle. I just stuck with Yahooogroups

su su: Hi everyone, it has beena good topic

patcharee sridakum: In my school, the students can use cell phone in school but not allowed to use in class.

su su: in our college, we use email to hand in assigments

Bill Templer: Yes, W.W., we need to discover the 'hidden' e-lives of our students, we'd be surprised.

paul: yes we did ,because in our textbook included some topics like this

Phanisara: Terrific summary William!!!

saksuda: Good idea Khun Nina. Cell phone is useful for them if they use it in proper way.

pham thuy: Pual, I don't think messeges are always unhealthy. And my sts often use cellphones as recorders to do survey or interviews/ I like this way

paul: and what we need to do is guiding them to face the world

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: Sakusuda, Paul, and Bill: cell phones are banned in my classes (banned for both students and for me) but I encourage them to use them productively on these Informational (mini) Video Projects I've organized

saksuda: That's good for your student Ajarn. Patcharee.

Phanisara: I agree with Paul. Synthesize their learning--making it REAL, making it personal, invite them to reflect, to think, to make decision, to contribute in the learning community and society at large.

Odonchimeg Tserentsogzol: Thank you for giving great ideas about using cell phoness in class, all.

su su: we exchange thoughts, ideas through SMS in English

Bill Templer: William, regarding GLOBAL ISSUES, we have a very active listserv called GISIG in IATEFL online that discusses how to incorporate GLOBAL ISSUES in EFL teaching. Anyone can join. :)\\

paul: i agree pham ,but yahoo messenger ,in it too many kinds of people

saksuda: Fantastic William your idea. I agree.

Damon Anderson: Everyone, we are coming to the last 7 minutes of our chat. Does anyone have a suggestion of a topic for our next chat?

Phanisara: Bill I agree. Teachers will be surprised at how very savvy they are in some aspects. They do need proper guidance in this new generation of learning.

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: Thanks Bill.

paul: i think english corner is also a kind of social action

Bill Templer: If you create a Yahoogroup you can stay in contact with students very easily for years. I send my former students tips and messages regularly.

Colin: When we allow students to use cell phones in class, we show them that their "t-life" (to borrow Bill's wonderful phrase) is acceptable. However, just like other things we use on a daily basis, we need to set boundaries for the students on what is acceptable behavior and what is not.

su su: I agree, Paul

paul: how to teacher graph in your lesson? next topic

Phanisara: I agree Bill. Even some teachers use Facebook (not just Yahoo groups) to connect new and old students together. Create the class alumni activities through this.

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: Here at Tra Vinh University, I'm now working on a series of short multi-level audio and video files. These come in three levels (beginning, intermediate, and advanced) and the first phase involves topics at the university: the main gate, the parking area, the sports field, the greenhouses, the canteen, etc. We're using the audio files (shared with students) to help them in the Translation and Interpretation classes. These are shared by email and USB

paul: sorry how to teach different kinds of graphs in reading?

patcharee sridakum: However, cell phones can be used for some cases. For example, we join iEAR website, the project called "One Day in the Life", my students 11 grader have to show me about the photo they took. And let me approve it, then they can post the photo as well as describe about what's going on about the picture. That's the way we use cell phone.

pham thuy: Yes, Paul, I agree. English corner is better

Phanisara: Paul--is that a suggestion for the topic of our next month's chat?

paul: it is often appeared in the newspaper articles

paul: yes

pham thuy: What do you mean "teaching graphs"?

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: The videos are being made by me, our students, and also anyone else who's interested. Some of these are just video versions of the audio, but what I want to do is get (brave) students to sit with me in front of the camera and work on pronunciation or grammar. These would then be shared with others. I have not started this project yet due to 1) problems of sharing large video files and 2) need to make sure students understand what sharing means and give informed consent.

paul: like different kinds of graph, like bar graphs and line graphs

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: But both projects aim to use social media in their web 2.0 form: user-created content

Damon Anderson: How about a topic like the difference between teaching for understanding and teaching comprehension?

su su: Is there anyone using Blogs and wikis to teach English?

paul: curve graphs

Phanisara: William---a little more advance social media use for ELT setting. But very interesting.

Odonchimeg Tserentsogzol: Teaching English to students with different levels in a classroom, next topic suggestion

pham thuy: Oh I see, Paul

paul: dear damon , sometimes we make is mixup

paul: but i believe they have difference

paul: i use blog

Bill Templer: One general site I can recommend is TOPIC MAGAZINE it is student-generated material <http://www.topics-mag.com/edition26/page.htm> Your own students can write about Vietnam, Thailand and submit small articles with photos there

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: Damon, could you elaborate on that difference?

pham thuy: It's useful in learning writing, esp. IELTS writing task 1, too?

Damon Anderson: I like the topic Odonchimeg suggested.

Damon Anderson: Well folks, our time is up! Thank you so much for a great chat today!! So many great ideas.

Phanisara: Topic: Teaching for understanding VS Teaching for comprehension--is good.

saksuda: I agree with Knun Damon.

paul: but hoow to judge their level

Bill Templer: many classrooms have different levels that is because we're so hung up on grouping students in the wrong ways a good topic

pham thuy: Yes, teaching mixed ability class

Colin: I like Odonchimeg's idea.

paul: is it depending on teachers' personal thoughts?

saksuda: It can be challanged for teachers.

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: I don't know if it's allowed for me to share my email, but if it is, here I go: wolf.william@gmail.com. i'd very much like to hear from people who are interested in doing collaboration at a distance on making materials fore extensive reading and extensive listening

Odonchimeg Tserentsogzol: Thanks for sharing great ideas, all.

Damon Anderson: William, I will take your email out when we post the transcript.

Bill Templer: I faced that situation with great problems in KLuala Lumpur. advanced beginners and fluent ESL native users in the same class

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: very useful! If anyone's interesting in collaborating or sharing ideas, please email me!

saksuda: Thanks William.

su su: good idea, William

paul: i want to know some useful websites

paul: thanks all

Damon Anderson: Thank you all so much for your participation today. It has been wonderful.

Bill Templer: I think mixed level class and its problems a good topic it is universal challenge

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: and these materials can be used outside of class to help solve some of the problems of mixed-skill classees

patcharee sridakum: Thanks for let me share the ideas, William.

paul: thanks, would you send me a e mail to my e mail address

Colin: Thank you everyone. Have a good evening or day as the case may be.

Bill Templer: more and more of our work should be oriented to outside of class it's 165/3 3 hours in class, 165 out every week

pham thuy: Thankyou all for sharing your great ideas. i've got to go now. See oh hear you at the next chat. Bye bye

Phanisara: Thank you everyone for the great web-chat today. You're all are an amazing group of ELT educators.

saksuda: Thanks everyone. My first chat was great and very useful.

William Wolf, ELF, Tra Vinh, Vietnam: very true, Bill!

paul: bye i have a nice time

saksuda: Time to say Ta Ta to Khun Nina and everyone.

Bill Templer: keep warm in UlaanB and BKK

Phanisara: Hope to see you next time. Please do invite your friends. And even your students--if they're learning to become English teachers....

patcharee sridakum: And thanks everyboby to share ideas. And hope to see all of you next chat.

paul: we hope we can have a meeting in China yearly like VSO or the Peace Corps

Odonchimeg Tserentsogzol: Ok, bye all. see you at the next chat.

Tresha: Enjoy the rest of the day! See you all next time!

Lê Trần Loan Phương: thank you all of you.

Damon Anderson: The chat is closed, but I will leave this open so you can continue to read the transcript. Although, some of the beginning part is missing here. For the complete transcript, check our RELO Bangkok web site. Thank you all again for joining us. Come to our next chat in January.
